



CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
Department of Toxic Substances Control

NEWS RELEASE

15 – 07

Arnold Schwarzenegger, Governor

Maureen F. Gorsen, Director

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Aug. 27, 2007

Contact: Jeanne Garcia

(818) 974-6549

Jgarcia1@dtsc.ca.gov

STATE GIVES GREEN LIGHT TO PRIVATIZED CLEANUP AT FORMER MILITARY BASE IN SACRAMENTO

Federal, State, Local Government Team Up to Create Jobs on Superfund Site

SACRAMENTO – For the first time in the nation’s history, a 62-acre parcel of the former McClellan Air Force Base in Sacramento, a federal Superfund site, is being transferred through Sacramento County to private developer McClellan Business Park for environmental cleanup and redevelopment. The California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) is the state’s lead agency for ensuring that the \$11 million cleanup plan for 62-acre parcel at the closed base will provide the highest level of safety, and protect public health and the environment from toxic harm.

“We are very happy to report that this innovative approach will shave three years off of the estimated cleanup time at McClellan,” said DTSC Director Maureen Gorsen. “While our mission hinges on protecting public health and the environment, we are also keenly interested in seeing economic revitalization in the communities so hard-hit by base closures,” Gorsen said. McClellan Business Park estimates that the commercial development planned will create 1,200 jobs and \$600,000 in property tax revenues to the county.

Since creating its Office of Military Facilities in 1994 to contend with the unique challenges presented by cleaning up former military bases, DTSC’s oversight of environmental assessments and cleanups, and its concurrence on releasing those properties, has cleared 112,000 acres for reuse that created almost 43,000 jobs. “McClellan is the first in what promises to be a very successful year of restoring the economic viability of military property,” Gorsen added. “Later in 2007, we anticipate early transfers of portions of Ft. Ord in Monterey, March Air Force Base in Riverside, and Tustin Marine Corps Air Station in Orange County,” Gorsen said.

With the waves of base closures and the realignments at the end of the Cold War, California lost more than 120,000 jobs and was left with 158,000 acres of land, much of it contaminated with toxics and unexploded ordnance. While some uncontaminated

areas of those bases were carved out and redeveloped rather quickly, the need to clean up others has left valuable properties to languish. The early transfer process allows the military to accelerate cleanups under DTSC oversight, while assuring that it will fund its share of the environmental restoration. In the case of McClellan AFB, the U.S. Air Force will transfer the property to Sacramento County, which will immediately transfer the property to the privately-held McClellan Business Park along with the \$11 million to conduct the cleanup. The arrangement frees the project from the uncertainties of the federal funding cycle.

DTSC worked closely with other environmental agencies, including the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the State Water Resources Control Board and the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board.

#

FOR GENERAL INQUIRIES: Contact the Department of Toxic Substances Control by phone at (800) 728-6942 or visit www.dtsc.ca.gov. To report illegal handling, discharge, or disposal of hazardous waste, call the Waste Alert Hotline at (800) 698-6942.

The mission of the Department of Toxic Substances Control is to provide the highest level of safety, and to protect public health and the environment from toxic harm.